

Cabinet Office For Rail Chief Is Owners' Plan

High Official to Free Commerce Commission From "Terrorism," Says Thorn

Emphasizes Importance

Counsel for the Executives Dubbs the Bugaboo of Strong Political Following

New York Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Congress should create as part of the new railroad program a special department of transportation, with a cabinet officer at its head, to free the governmental

regulative body from the "terrorism" of political influence which the Interstate Commerce Commission now faces every time it undertakes to pass an appeal for rate increases. Alfred P. Thom, general counsel for the Association of Railroad Executives, told the Interstate Commerce Commission at the railroad hearing here to-day.

"The Interstate Commerce Commission and the state commissions may be brave enough to withstand influence," said Mr. Thom, "but if you are going to really solve the railroad problem you ought to remove them from all possibility of influence."

Emphasizing the importance of removing the governmental railroad agency as far as possible from "petty politics," Mr. Thom related that a member of one of the state public service commissions had only recently told him that there never was a time in his state when a proposal to increase rates did not immediately cause the introduction of a bill in the Legislature to abolish the commission.

"When application was made to the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1917 for rate increase," said Mr. Thom, "and that body had the matter under consideration, resolutions were introduced in the Senate for a congressional inquiry."

Can't Get Away From Politics

"Is it too strong to say that this was a case of terrorism exercised over the Interstate Commerce Commission by a body which has the power of life and death over it? Of course, we cannot get away from politics, but there is a difference between petty politics and great politics. All that we ask is that you regulate us through political agencies which will deal with us in a big way and which will be most responsive to the needs."

Mr. Thom expressed the belief that a Secretary of Transportation would be above "petty political influences," and continued:

"The duty of the Secretary of Transportation would be to consider transportation problems from the broad viewpoint of the public interest and to make recommendations to the President and to the Interstate Commerce Commission to promote the public interest. His realization of the public interest and his proposals to meet these needs would have behind them the force of the administration, and the successful supervision of transportation would be necessary to the success of the administration."

"Customs relating to railroad revenues, for example, should not be determined by the selfish interests of the railroads or the selfish interests of the shippers, but by the public interest. We believe that transportation is of such vital importance in our national life that it ought to have a representative in the cabinet."

Roads Needed to Win War

"I believe it will be generally conceded that the railroads were necessary to win the war. In times of peace they are more important than the army and navy. Yet we have a secretary of the navy and a secretary of war sitting at the President's table. We have a man in the cabinet representing agriculture. Why is it not necessary to have a man there charged with representing transportation?"

"I am told that there will be opposition to this proposal from two quarters," said Mr. Thom. "One of the political parties; (2) the other political party."

"Declaring that this opposition of politicians seemed to originate from a fear that a cabinet officer at the head of the railroads of the country would be able to build up a dangerously powerful political machine, Mr. Thom declared that he did not believe that this was possible and pointed out that, despite the fact that a member of the cabinet had far larger and more direct control over the railroads at the time of the last congressional elections than would be the case under the proposed legislation, the political victory had gone to the opposing party."

Clark's Plan Is Opposed

"Under the plan we have offered," said Mr. Thom, "the Interstate Commerce Commission would be relieved of some of its burdens and would be raised in dignity as a judicial body. It would act as a check both on the railroads and on the department of transportation. With the suggested regional commissions assisting in various parts of the country, it would be brought much closer to the individual communities, and local questions would be heard by these local commissions before coming up to the central body for review."

Mr. Thom declared that the railroad executives were opposed to the plan proposed by Commissioner Clark to give the commission the power to make both maximum and minimum rates because they believed that such a plan would not provide the necessary flexibility or promptness necessary to maintain a proper relation between the railroads and the development of business.

"We are asking for permission to work out our own salvation under a statutory rule which makes provision for review by a competent governmental body," said Mr. Thom. "The carriers should have the power to initiate rates so that there will be machinery to make rates to meet the public needs promptly."

Would Equalize Burden

"In every one of the states south of the Potomac and east of the Mississippi the state rate of no tax states is the same. Here is an unfair distribution of burden created by the states themselves. It is not only an interest in interstate commerce, but it is an interest in state against state. The state which bears a larger proportion of the rate burden than a sister state has the right to have this inequality of burden equalized. This is no question of violating state rights. It is a question of whether one state can determine the proportion of a common burden which it will bear."

ness of the carriers was rapidly increasing while at the same time it was practically impossible for the roads to market their stocks. The problem in this particular, he said, was to invite capital into stock so that the equilibrium can be restored. The Pennsylvania Railroad, he told the committee, has not been able to sell a single share of stock for five and a half years. The New York Central had to withdraw two attempted stock issues and in 1917 the Southern Railway had to issue a bond issue which was launched to finance an improvement fund.

At the close of to-day's hearing Mr. Thom was discussing the necessity of Federal legislation which he declared, the railroads' legal authorities believed constitutional and the "growing public sentiment favorable to a consolidation of some of the weaker roads with stronger ones." This latter subject he will discuss briefly Monday when the hearings are resumed, after which members of the committee will question him about his testimony.

Ford Contest Will Be Heard in Public, Senators Decide

Jurisdiction of Committee Is Attacked; Newberry Not to Oppose Court Action in Michigan, Friends Say

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—In taking up Henry Ford's petition contesting the election of Truman H. Newberry to the Senate from Michigan, the Senate Elections Committee decided to-day to hear all evidence in open session.

A sharp conflict developed over the right of the committee to decide a contest for a seat in the next Senate.

Senator Kellogg, of Minnesota, Republican, in denying that a new issue had developed, insisted that the contest should be decided by the next Congress. The chairman said, however, the question would have to be settled later and discussions with counsel proceeded.

Henry E. Bodman, of Detroit, counsel for Newberry, in announcing that the latter desired to cooperate fully with the committee in preserving all evidence, declared the bill introduced in the Michigan Legislature to have the Michigan Supreme Court take charge of the ballots would protect all interests. Senator Commerce and other Democrats contended that the Senate itself, through the Privileges and Election Committee should act.

Mr. Bodman said Mr. Newberry did not vote and "took no part" in the election, but that he would not oppose injunction proceedings by Mr. Ford to prevent destruction of the ballots.

Alfred Lucking, Mr. Ford's counsel in contending that the injunctions and proposed legislation did not meet the situation, asked for an immediate investigation and report by the committee.

Mr. Lucking declared that the acknowledged expenditures of \$175,000 in Mr. Newberry's campaign were "only a fraction" and charged that they actually reached about \$500,000.

Ballots at Marquette and Saginaw already had been destroyed or destroyed, he said, and correspondence of the Newberry campaign managers had been burned.

Five Ships Are En Route Here With Overseas Men

Transport Orizaba, Bringing 2,983, Is Due in New York Next Thursday

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—The army transport Orizaba, which sailed from Brest January 14 with 134 officers and 2,983 enlisted men, will dock at New York January 23, the War Department announced to-day. The Calamare and Francis L. Skinner, which left Bordeaux January 12, will dock at New York January 24 and January 30, with 38 officers and 60 men.

Two other transports, the Monticello and the Federal, carrying small numbers of casuals, will dock at Newport News this month, and the transport Melita, with 1,628 officers and men is routed from Brest to Boston, due to dock January 21.

Included in the returning troops on the Orizaba, are two casual companies of seven officers and 301 men from New York state, and one casual company of New Jersey, troops totaling two officers and 141 men. The Calamare carries 36 casual officers, and the Francis L. Skinner has detachment Case No. 19, composed of 2 officers and 60 men from New Jersey.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Jan. 17.—The battleships Louisiana and New Hampshire, bringing troops from France, and scheduled to arrive here Tuesday, have been diverted to New York. It was announced to-day that orders were given the ships by wireless last night. Ships probably will reach New York Wednesday or Thursday.

Baker Appeals to Soldiers To Maintain High Standard

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—In a general order published to the army to-day, Secretary Baker called upon officers and men to maintain the high regard for the uniform which has been established throughout the country.

"Through hearty cooperation and discipline of the officers and men of the army, the country has acquired a new respect for the uniform," the order read. "You men have maintained your high standards, not only by soldierly conduct in the camps and bravely in the trenches, but in your regard for civilian ideals when on leave or furlough, and in this you have established a record new to all armies."

"I confidently expect you to maintain your standards throughout the trying days of demobilization, when the tendency to throw off army discipline and restraints will be strong. I am counting on your by your own acts and by your influence to keep up the record of which you and I and our whole country are so proud."

High Officials Invited to Roosevelt Memorial Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Members of the Cabinet, high government officials, members of the family and friends of the late Theodore Roosevelt will be issued invitations to the joint congressional memorial service to be held in the chamber of the House of Representatives February 9.

House Chairman Warns Security League Officer

Johnson Tells Orth His Attitude at Inquiry May Result in Contempt Proceeding

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Charles D. Orth, chairman of the Congressional Committee of the National Security League, was warned to-day by Chairman Johnson, of the Special House Committee investigating the league's political activities, that his attitude had been exasperating and that if continued

he would recommend that the witness be taken before the bar of the House for contempt.

Mr. Orth's answers to hypothetical questions regarding the Congressional chart issued by the league were characterized by Representative Reavis, of Nebraska, as evasive. Mr. Reavis appealed to the chairman to require direct answers.

"If such answers as Mr. Orth has made were given in any court of law," Chairman Johnson said, "he would have been in jail long ago. The committee has stood for them long enough."

The witness said he had tried to be frank, but that he was unable to answer abstract legal questions. His request for a lawyer was refused.

Relief Bill Is Approved By Senate Committee

Allies Not Pledged to Aid Fund; Senator Kenyon May Oppose Measure

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—The House bill appropriating the \$100,000,000 desired by President Wilson to relieve starvation in Europe and check Bolshevism was reported to the Senate to-day by Democratic Leader Martin, with the indorsement of the Appropriations Committee. Senator Martin announced that he would call up the measure tomorrow, and leaders of both parties predicted its prompt passage.

Senator Kenyon, of Iowa, Republican, reserved the right to file a minority committee report opposing the bill, in which he may be joined by Senator Hardwick, of Georgia, Democrat.

Further committee hearings on the measure were made public to-day and disclosed that Chairman Martin received a cablegram from the American peace delegation stating that \$300,000,000 would be necessary to feed starving European peoples. Senator Martin said the cablegram did not promise that the Allies would contribute to the famine fund, and the committee therefore adopted a resolution directing Senator Martin to cable President Wilson and urge "a firm arrangement for Allied assistance."

The hearings also contained the first public statement of Senator Hollis, of New Hampshire, Democrat, since he returned from a tour of several months through Europe. Supporting the famine legislation, Senator Hollis said there was tremendous destitution in Central Europe and that prominent men of Switzerland, Italy, Russia and Czechoslovakia all were "much afraid of Bolshevism."

Senator Hollis also said the war was not necessarily over because the armistice had been signed.

Baker Wants 40 Million More

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Congress was asked to-day by the War Department to appropriate \$40,126,500 for expenditures during the year beginning next July on fortifications and \$27,120,100 for sundry expenses. Secretary Baker said that while these sums were additional to those to be provided by the regular army appropriation bill, they did not increase the department's total estimates of about \$2,000,000,000.

Saks & Company at 34th St. "In the Heart of New York"—Direct by Subway, Tube and "L" Saturday—An Extraordinary Special Sale of Women's Smart Suits In Luxurious Fur Trimmed and Strictly Tailored Styles Formerly \$39.50 to \$59.00 At \$32 A rare ensemble of the most individual styles produced this season, tailored in a manner comparable only to suits of a much costlier to-order variety. Fashioned of Duvet de Laine, Suede Velour, Chiffon Broadcloth, Velour Cloth, Oxfords, Velour Checks, and Twill Back Velveteen. Sizes 34 to 44; Also a few models to 50 1/2 bust Fourth Floor.

The Newest and Most Charming Ideas in Youthful Fashions are Shown Today in A Special Sale of Misses' New Silk Taffeta Frocks at \$18.75 New Taffeta Silk Frocks that are brimful of originality, smartly expressed. Skirts are in the much-favored narrow silhouette and youthful tunic effects. Trimmed with Worsted Embroidery, Silk Stitchery, or Pinched Tucks. Obtainable in Rose, Taupe, Copenhagen Blue, Navy Blue and Black. Sizes 14 to 18 years. Two Styles Pictured.

Misses' Tailored and Fur-Trimmed Coats Greatly Reduced for Immediate Clearance These Coats are beautifully tailored in the most successful materials, and at these prices are values seldom, if ever, equalled Coats... Formerly \$25.00... Reduced to \$12.95 Coats... Formerly \$30.00... Reduced to \$19.75 Coats... Formerly \$35.00... Reduced to \$25.00 Coats... Formerly \$39.50... Reduced to \$29.50 Coats... Formerly \$45.00... Reduced to \$35.00 Coats... Formerly \$50.00... Reduced to \$39.50 Coats... Formerly \$55.00... Reduced to \$45.00 Coats... Formerly \$75.00... Reduced to \$55.00 Saturday Only!

Women's All Wool Plaid Skirts Special \$10.50 In seven of the most delightful tailored models introduced, with novelty pockets, and broad tailored belts. They come in good looking two-tone effects and smart Plaids. Sizes from 25 to 36 waistbands. Illustrated. We Shall Also Offer Today Unusual Values in Men's-Wear Serge Skirts Beautifully tailored and shown in several cleverly styled models. Priced very modestly. At \$7.95, \$9.75, \$10.75, \$12.75

Exceptional! Women's Wool Serge Frocks in Two New Models Saturday At \$15 Practical but very charming frocks tastefully trimmed with Braiding. One is in Blouse effect, and very suitable for women requiring sizes 38 to 44. The other style is for smaller figures, those requiring sizes 34 to 40. This one is in smart tunic effect, as shown at left. Under Present Conditions Such Values are Nothing Short of Phenomenal. We Shall Also Offer Today Six Very Charming Models in Taffeta and Georgette Crepe Frocks at \$25 Exquisite Afternoon Frocks of Taffeta and Georgette Crepe, beautifully hand embroidered. Also—Dainty Crepe de Chine Frocks, in stunning hand-embroidered and tucked effects. Colors: Copenhagen Blue, Silver Grey, Taupe, Wisteria, Beaver, Navy, and Black. Sizes 34 to 44.

Boys' Corduroy Suits With Extra Knickers Special \$10.50 Sturdy, well-tailored suits that will give splendid service, in a snappy Norfolk model, as pictured. This low price will be in effect only until our present assortment is depleted. Sizes 7 to 16 years. Junior Boys' Coats Reduced Saturday to \$6.75 Winter's smartest styles, produced in Fancy Mixtures, and warmly lined. At this price they cannot be had to-day wholesale! Sizes 3 to 8 years. Boys' Winter Overcoats Reduced to \$16.75 Regardless of what you pay, Boys' Overcoats cannot be better tailored than these. The styles are mostly double-breasted, in snappy military effect. Full lined to insure plenty of warmth. Sizes 9 to 18 years.

Radically Reduced Saturday--- A Superb Collection of Women's Winter Coats in Handsome Fur-Trimmed and Tailored Models Distinctive belted and draped styles, the best productions of European and American designers for the present season, fashioned of Lustrous Broadcloth, Silvertone, Bolivia, Wool Velour, Normandy, and Rich Mixtures. Beautifully lined with Peau de Cygne or Satin and warmly interlined. Coats... Formerly \$25 to \$29.50... Now \$16.50 Coats... Formerly \$29.50 to \$35.00... Now \$25.00 Coats... Formerly \$35 to \$39.50... Now \$29.50 Coats... Formerly \$45 to \$55... Now \$35.00 Coats... Formerly \$59.50 to \$75... Now \$49.50 Coats... Formerly \$78.00 to \$95... Now \$59.50

Women's Pile Fabric Coats Many Handsomely Fur-Trimmed Saturday at \$29.50 to \$95 They have all the warmth and beauty of high priced fur garments. Fashioned of Arcadian Lamb, Silk Velour de Nord, and Seal-skinette.

Girls' Fur-Trimmed Coats in an Important Sale Saturday At \$14.75 The surplus stock of a well known manufacturer. All well tailored coats, in Flared models with tucked belt and large pockets, developed in Velour, Delhi, and fine Wool Coatings. Collars are of Near Seal, Nutria, and Coney. Each coat full lined and warmly interlined. Sizes 8 to 16. Illustrated.

Girls' Smart Serge Dresses at \$5.95 Practical, sailor model, fashioned of durable Navy Blue Serge, finished with wide leather belt. Collar and cuffs are trimmed with Braid. Sizes 8 to 14 years. Saturday Only—

Miss Burleigh, Expert Corsetiere. Is Now Demonstrating The New Binner Corsets on the Third Floor. No Corset so ably helps to idealize the figure as the Binner, and there are so many wonderful features about the New Binner models that no well dressed woman should fail to see them. Miss Burleigh will gladly make individual fittings, which may be arranged by phone or mail. Today, Saturday, Only Binner Corsets---Special \$6.95 Regularly \$10. In models for every figure, beautifully produced in Fancy Broche Coutil.

In a Remarkable Sale Today--- 500 Men's and Women's Umbrellas at \$1.95 With Outside Silk Cover Fine American Taffeta Umbrellas, a substantial tape-edged cotton mixture, on Paragon frames. The handles are in Hooked, Straight, and Ring Shapes, made of Bakelite or Natural Woods, some Sterling Silver trimmed. None like them at \$1.95 anywhere!